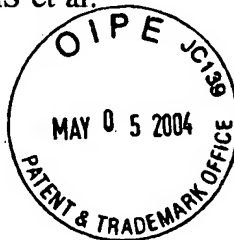


**PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants	:	Jacques QUELLAIS et al.)	
Appln. No.	:	10/759,211)	Group Art Unit 3618
Docket No.	:	P24660)	Examiner Not Yet Known
Customer No.	:	7055)	Confirmation No.
Filed	:	January 20, 2004)	
Title	:	DEVICE FOR BINDING A BOOT TO A SPORTS APPARATUS)	



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR §1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for his or her consideration during the examination of the instant application.

The following documents were cited in a search report in the French priority application upon which the instant application is based. A copy of the search report and a copy of an annex thereto, indicating "family member" documents, are attached.

For compliance with the "concise explanation" requirement set forth in 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3), consistent with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office policy, Applicants describe below any comments relating to pertinent portions of the respective documents, where such comments appear in the search report.

U.S. Patent No. 3,863,942 (BURGER), issued on February 4, 1975, is cited in the aforementioned search report as being a document that is particularly pertinent (*i.e.*, a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 4, 5, 7, and 10 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of US '942 is cited on the aforementioned search report as being pertinent. In addition, US '942 is cited in paragraph 0010 of the specification of the instant application.

International Patent Publication No. WO 99/02226 (AYLIFFE), published on January 21, 1999, is cited in the aforementioned search report as being a document that is particularly pertinent (*i.e.*, a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 5, and 7 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of WO '226 is cited on the aforementioned search report as being pertinent. In addition, WO '226 is cited in paragraph 0010 of the specification of the instant application.

French Patent Publication No. 2 363 341 (EMERY), published on March 31, 1978, is cited in the aforementioned search report as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (*i.e.*, a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 3-5, and 7 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of FR '341 is cited as being pertinent. In addition, FR '341 is cited in paragraph 0010 of the specification of the instant application.

U.S. Patent No. 3,844,575 (SALOMON), issued on October 29, 1974, is cited in the aforementioned search report as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (*i.e.*, a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of US '575 is cited as being pertinent. In addition, US '575 is cited in paragraph 0010 of the specification of the instant application.

In addition to the foregoing documents that were cited in the search report of Applicants' priority application, and which are cited in paragraph 0010 of the specification of the instant application, the following documents are brought to the Examiner's attention for reasons that they are also cited in the specification of the instant application:

U.S. Patent No. 5,085,454 (PROVENCE et al.), issued on February 4, 1992;

U.S. Patent No. 5,152,546 (DUNAND et al.), issued on October 6, 1992;

U.S. Patent No. 6,017,050 (GIRARD et al.), issued on January 25, 2000;

U.S. Patent No. 6,113,111 (GIERVELD et al.), issued on September 5, 2000;

U.S. Patent No. 6,152,458 (EDAUF et al.), issued on November 28, 2000;

U.S. Patent No. 6,499,761 (QUELLAIS), issued on December 31, 2002;

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0168830 (HAUGHLIN), published on September 11, 2003;

European Patent Publication No. 0 768 103 (SALOMON S.A.), published on April 16, 1997;

European Patent Publication No. 0 890 379 (FRITSCHI AG - SWISS BINDINGS), published on January 13, 1999;

European Patent Publication No. 0 914 844 (STYLUS S.P.A.), published on May 12, 1999;

French Patent Publication No. 2 634 132 (SALOMON S.A.), published on January 19, 1990;

French Patent Publication No. 2 650 192 (SALOMON S.A.), published on February 1, 1991;

International Patent Publication No. WO 96/37269 (GIERVELD BEHEER B.V.),

published on November 28, 1996;

International Patent Publication No. WO 00/13755 (SALOMON S.A.), published on March 16, 2000;

International Patent Publication No. WO 01/93963 (ROTTEFELLA AS), published on December 13, 2001.

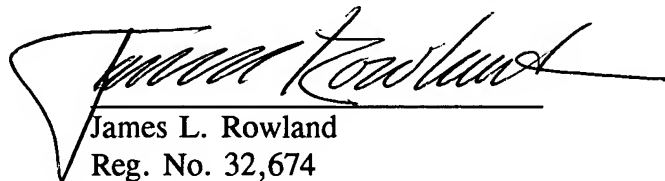
Lastly, Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner commonly owned copending U.S. application No. 10/233,620 (GIERVELD et al.), filed on September 4, 2003 (Att'y Docket No. I21974).

A copy of each of the non-U.S. patent documents is attached. Further, each document is listed on the attached PTO-1449 form to permit the Examiner to indicate his or her consideration thereof.

The Examiner is requested to consider the documents cited above and to confirm such consideration by appropriately initialling the listings on the PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of the initialled form to Applicants.

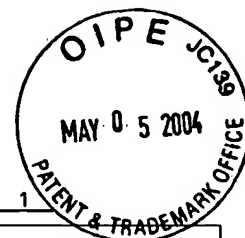
Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacques QUELLAIS et al. et al.


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Sheet 1 of 1

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)	Atty. Docket No. P24660	Application No. 10/759,211
Applicants Jacques QUELLAIS et al.		
Filing Date January 20, 2004		Group Art Unit 3618

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	3 8 4 4 5 7 5	10-1974	SALOMON	280	11.35N	
	3 8 6 3 9 4 2	2-1975	BURGER	280	11.352	
	5 0 8 5 4 5 4	2-1992	PROVENCE et al.	280	615	
	5 1 5 2 5 4 6	10-1992	DUNAND et al.	280	615	
	6 0 1 7 0 5 0	1-2000	GIRARD	280	615	
	6 1 1 3 1 1 1	9-2000	GIERVELD et al.	280	11.15	
	6 1 5 2 4 5 8	11-2000	EDAUW et al.	280	11.14	
	6 4 9 9 7 6 1	12-2002	QUELLAIS	280	623	
	2003 / 0 1 6 8 8 3 0	9-2003	HAUGHLIN	280	615	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
		0 7 6 8 1 0 3	4-1997	EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	-----	-----		X
		0 8 9 0 3 7 9	1-1999	EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	-----	-----		X
		0 9 1 4 8 4 4	5-1999	EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	-----	-----	ENGLISH	
		2 3 6 3 3 4 1	9-1976	FRANCE	-----	-----		X
		2 6 3 4 1 3 2	1-1990	FRANCE	-----	-----		X
		2 6 5 0 1 9 2	2-1991	FRANCE	-----	-----		X
	WO 96 /	3 7 2 6 9	11-1996	WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORG.	-----	-----	ENGLISH	
	WO 99 /	0 2 2 2 6	1-1999	WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORG.	-----	-----	ENGLISH	
	WO 00 /	1 3 7 5 5	3-2000	WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORG.	-----	-----	ENGLISH	
	WO 01 /	9 3 9 6 3	12-2001	WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORG.	-----	-----	ENGLISH	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/233,620 (GIERVELD et al.), filed on September 4, 2003.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	